

FACT SHEET

November 1981

I HISTORY

The Ontario Native Council on Justice has been in existence for six years. It evolved from the Ontario Native Advisory Committee to the Criminal Justice System. This Committee had been established in April of 1975 as a result of the Edmonton Federal-Provincial Conference on Native Peoples and the Criminal Justice System held in February of 1975 and the prior planning for that conference. In late 1976 the Committee was re-structured to ensure Native control. In the spring of 1977 the Committee was funded by a grant from the Indian Community Secretariat on behalf of the Provincial Secretariat for Justice and the name was changed to the Ontario Native Council on Justice. The grant enabled the Council to open an office, hire staff who would be responsible to its member Native organizations and to conduct its own research on justice issues.

II MEMBERSHIP

- *Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians*
- *Grand Council Treaty #9*
- *Grand Council Treaty #3*
- *Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres*
- *Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Association*
- *Ontario Native Women's Association*
- *Union of Ontario Indians*
- *Native Inmates from Provincial Institutions*
- *Native Law Students' Association*

III GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP

The Council is a truly Native body. Government representatives participate and assist from time to time but do not vote. Ministry liaison persons to the Council include representatives from:

- *Provincial Secretariat for Justice*
- *Ministry of the Attorney General*
- *Ministry of Correctional Services*
- *Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations*
- *Ministry of the Solicitor General*
- *Ministry of Community and Social Services*
- *Native Community Branch of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation*
- *Solicitor General of Canada*
- *Department of Justice*

One or two formal joint meetings are held each year between the Council and its ministry liaison persons.

IV OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Council are:

- *To act in the development of justice policy pertaining to Native people and in so doing to identify problems and propose solutions*
- *To encourage and facilitate the initiation, development and funding of justice-related programs which are designed and operated by and for Native people*
- *To conduct and publish research on justice-related areas of concern to Native people*
- *To make recommendations and presentations to individual ministries in the Justice Policy Field, the Cabinet Committee on Justice and any other provincial and federal ministries or departments or organizations on justice-related issues*
- *To provide consultation on a regular and formal basis among the organizations representing Native people throughout Ontario and between those organizations and the ministries and agencies which form and control the justice system*
- *To initiate and maintain contacts between the Native people and government representatives for the purpose of enabling two way communication and sharing of information*

V ACHIEVEMENTS

The Council works co-operatively with a number of Native organizations and government ministries and therefore cannot claim exclusive credit for any accomplishments. It can, however, take legitimate pride in the following achievements to which it has contributed:

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*Development of a Legal Clinic in Thunder Bay in co-operation with local Native organizations and the Ontario Legal Aid Plan

*Initiation of community service order projects at N'Amerind Friendship Centre in London and Ne-Chee Friendship Centre in Kenora in co-operation with the Ministry of Correctional Services

*Joint Publication with the Solicitor General of Canada of a Progress Report on Government Action Taken Since the 1975 Federal-Provincial Conference on Native Peoples and the Criminal Justice System (1979)

*Joint Publication with the Ministry of Correctional Services of The Native Inmate in Ontario. A Preliminary Survey (1978)

*Assistance towards the establishment and development of Native inmate liaison projects in Cochrane, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Kenora in co-operation with local Native organizations and the Ministry of Correctional Services

*Policy Statements on such issues of concern as:

- The Native Justice of the Peace Program
- The Position of Consultant on Native Programs with the Ministry of the Attorney General
- A National Advisory Council on Native People and the Criminal Justice System
- Improvements in Legal Aid Delivery to Native People
- Recognition of Native Inmate Self-Help Groups
- Native Awareness Training for OPP officers

*Publication of an Inquiry Into Revenue Gained by the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada from the Sale of Alcohol to Native People. April 1, 1978 - March 31, 1979

*Participation with the Ministry of Correctional Services in the establishment and subsequent evaluation of the position of Native Programmes Development Co-ordinator

*Translation of the Glossary of Correctional Terms into Ojibway for the Ministry of Correctional Services

*Appointment of Native Persons to Legal Aid Area Committees in London, St. Catharines, Kenora and Sudbury in co-operation with the Ontario Legal Aid Plan

*Initial formation of an Association of Northern and Native Legal Clinics

*Completion of a Two Year Review of the Ontario Native Courtworker Program in co-operation with the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres and publication of the Final Report on the Review of the Ontario Native Courtworker Program (1980)

*Publication of a Discussion Paper on Justice-Related Children and Family Services for Native People in Ontario (1981)

VI CURRENT PRIORITIES

At the close of each Council meeting, delegates determine the priorities for its staff and committees. The current priorities of the Council are:

*Joint Proposal for Justice Development Workers for its Member Organizations

*Follow-up to Survey of Native Inmates

*Completion of the Survey of Fine Defaulters Incarcerated in the Kenora District Jail for Provincial Offences

*Assistance in the Development of a Fine Options Pilot Project in Kenora

*Participation in the Mewett Review on the Office and Function of Justices of the Peace in Ontario

*Development of Native Awareness Training Programs for Non-Native Justice Personnel

*Initiation of a Preliminary Research Project on a Comparative Analysis of Judicial Proceedings Concerning Native and Non-Native Persons Appearing before Courts in Ontario

*Justice-Related Children and Family Services for Native People in Ontario

VII FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on the work of the Council, please contact:

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